The port in Kakinada still remains under-developed. If immediate action is initiated to develop this port, it will benefit the business community in exporting and importing the goods.

The Polavaram multi-purpose project on river Godavari is still pending. If immediate clearance/sanction is accorded to this project, it will benefit a large number of people in this area.

Lastly, one B.S. Raju of my district was killed by ULFA activities in Assam. His entire family - old parents and sisters - depended on him. I request through you the Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas to provide suitable compensation to the family members of Shri Raju immediately.

[*Translation*]

SHRI BHAVNA CHIKHALIA (Junagarh): Mr. Speaker, Sir, even after 44 years of attaining independence, Indian dress apparels is disregarded in certain parts of the country whereas our culture and dress apparel are being admired in foreign countries. In this regard, I want to give an example. We celebrate the birth anniversary of our former President Dr. S. Radhakrishnan as Teacher's Day. On the Teacher's day on 5th September, 1991 when students of St. Anns School dressed in Indian style, they were wearing Sari and putting on Kangan in their hands and Bindi on their forehead, attended the school...

MR. SPEAKER: Are you going to raise the question of a dress worn in school here?

SHRI BHAVNA CHIKHALIA: This pertains to Teacher's Day. On that day, when the girl students dressed in Indian style went to attend the function, they were openly insulted and rebuked by the Principal and were refused to participate in that function.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, in view of this happening, I request the Government to take such schools under its control and the Minister of Human Resource should make a statement in this regard and necessary action should be taken against such school officials under the rules.

[*English*]

SHRI E. AHAMED (Manjeri): Sir, on the last day of the Session, I would take this opportunity to remind the Government, through you Sir, about a solemn assurance which they have given to the minorities of this country.

The assurance was that statutory recognition will be accorded to the Minorities Commission. Minorities Commission came into being on the strength of a resolution of the Government of India on the 12th January, 1978 with the Chairman and Members representing each of the five religious minorities, namely, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists, Parsis and Muslims. Again Sir, on the strength of an amended resolution on 30th March, 1988, this Commission has been entrusted with onerous responsibilities including suggesting appropriate legal and welfare measures in respect of any minority to be undertaken by the State or the Central Governments. So, unless such a Commission is accorded statutory recognition, it will find it difficult to function effectively. There was a National Convention under the auspices of the Minorities Commission giving representation to all the minorities in the country which also urged the Government to accord statutory recognition to it. To make the Commission work in a meaningful way, statutory recognition is of great importance. I hope, Sir, the Government will act promptly in this regard.

[*Translation*]

SHRI MOHAMMAD YUNUS SALEEM (Katihar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, most of the areas in the State of Bihar are affected by devastating flood. I represent the katihar Constituency in this House. I have been receiving telephones for the last two-three days that Mahananda river is in flood there